

asked me to go ahead with this this morning, was captain of the Republican team. The competition was fierce, but we did this for the children of our country who can be exposed to the principles of golf.

Golf is the only sport that doesn't have an umpire or referee. You play yourself, and the values that golf teaches is something that we think is worthwhile.

I want to congratulate the First Tee Roll Call, and the Republican team and the Democratic team who showed up for this very, very worthwhile project.

AMERICA'S STONEWALL

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress are looking for border security answers, and the American people are demanding them. But it seems we are being stonewalled by our own Border Patrol hierarchy.

Get this, apparently our Border Patrol agents cannot talk or answer questions from Members of Congress without filing a lengthy detailed report, the same type of report they file when they arrest illegals, drug runners, or are even shot at by the Mexican military. This appears to intimidate our Border Patrol agents to not say a word about what is really going on.

When I have been on the border, the Border Patrol agents were very reluctant to say anything except scripted answers. Now I know why. What does the Border Patrol hierarchy have to hide? Apparently the truth because that is all we are after.

Why wouldn't homeland security want their agents talking to Members of Congress? Members of Congress are being forced to tear down the war of silence just to control our own border. The enemy is not Congress or the American people, it is the insurgents who infiltrate our border every day.

And that's just the way it is.

NO RECESS UNTIL ACTION ON ENERGY PRICES

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, the Bush administration and Republicans in this House enjoy a cozy relationship with big oil companies, one that is paying off for oil but is hurting American consumers.

For 5 years now, the President has stacked his administration with former energy executives, friends and former colleagues of his and the Vice President's. It is no wonder then that now the Nation's three largest oil companies have been posting record profits. They are benefiting from the Republican policies that allow them to price gouge and receive huge tax subsidies.

But when it comes to offering assistance or solutions to the American consumer, the Republicans in the Bush administration come up short. No money for home heating assistance, no money for consumer price relief, no money to invest in finding alternative fuels. Of course not, it is all going to the oil companies. There is just not enough left to help the average American.

Democrats demand action on this issue before Republicans take this House into yet another recess.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 4479, which repeals the oil company tax subsidies and allows us to find real solutions to the energy crisis.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN). Under the Speaker's announced guidelines, the Chair is constrained not to entertain such a request in the absence of express clearances by bipartisan committee and floor leadership.

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE AND WAR ON TERROR

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank President Bush for declassifying key judgments from the National Intelligence Estimate so the American people can understand the absolute critical importance of our war on terror, and why the bills we are debating this week, from defense appropriations to military commissions, are essential to keeping America safe and our homeland secure.

Mr. Speaker, despite what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle might claim, American is not responsible for the rise of terrorism. We did not bring this war on the terrorists. They brought this upon themselves when they attacked freedom and our way of life in Kenya, Tanzania, aboard the USS Cole, New York City, Pennsylvania, and right here in Washington, D.C. on September 11.

America has a winning strategy of relentlessly hunting down those who wish us harm, and working to defeat terrorism by encouraging democracy in the Middle East. If the terrorists are emboldened by the spread of this newfound freedom, it is because they know that free people will terminate the terrorist way of life.

Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely incumbent upon us and this body to give President Bush, our CIA, and our military the tools they need to prevent future attacks on our Nation.

I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will join me this week in voting to protect the American people.

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, for 10 years the Republicans have kept hardworking Americans away from an increase in the minimum wage. Over 7 million people who get up in the morning every day and go to work, all day long, all week long, all month long and all year long, and at the end of that year they end up in poverty. At the end of that year they end up with the inability to provide for their families.

For 10 years, the Republicans have fought an increase in the minimum wage. For 10 years the Republicans have made it official policy of this country that people who get up and go to work every day will end up in poverty. It is a poverty wage. And the Republicans are proud of it. The majority leader boasts that he has fought this his entire public life, and yet these people are stuck at 1950 wages.

But what is not stuck at 1950 is the price of groceries, the price of gasoline to go to work, the price of housing, and the price of health care. There is no relief for these hardworking Americans. There is no relief for their families because the Republicans refuse to entertain a clean vote on the minimum wage. A clean vote, so 7 million Americans could start to have an increase in their yearly take-home pay. That is what the Republicans refuse.

There is 72 hours left in this session. The Republicans can decide to do the decent thing, to provide a minimum wage increase for hardworking Americans. But the Republicans won't do that because they are not a party of decency. They have chosen to put these people into poverty and to keep them in poverty year after year after year. Yet they have chosen to have eight pay raises for Members of Congress at the same time they have chosen to keep hardworking Americans in poverty.

That's what the Republicans promise hardworking Americans, you end up in poverty.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take up H.R. 2429, the Fair Minimum Wage Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded on page 734 of the House Rules Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the gentleman's request until it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Once again, the Republicans block a vote on the minimum wage.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair must ask Members to heed the gavel. The gentleman from California far exceeded his allotted time.